3: Barrett E-5 (1908-1909)1925
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similar to that used in making the bark cloth of the region. When the fibers are beaten out and prepared for twisting into cordage, they are usually stored away in bundles, such as that shown in pl. CXIX, 2, until needed.

An important economic plant of the Cayapa country is that from which is made the bark cloth called by the local Spanish name damajaua and by the Cayapa name tû′ckī. This is beaten from the bark of an indigenous tree called tû′ckītcī. The tree is felled and a section of the bark the length desired, usually six to eight feet, is carefully removed, being split along one side only. The bark may then be beaten immediately upon the same log, but it is ordinarily rolled up and taken to the house where a log is kept especially for this beating, which is done with a short maul, called tatcī wima′so, such as that shown in fig. 6. One side of the maul, at least, is cut diagonally with grooves and corresponding ridges. The beating must be done within a few hours after the bark is taken from the tree, or before it dries considerably. Placing the strip of bark crosswise upon the log, it is beaten with considerable force with the grooved side of the maul, which is held at an angle of about forty-five degrees to the length of the bark. After beating one short section of the bark in this manner, it is moved across the log far enough to bring a new section into place, and in this way every part of the bark is reached.

FIG. 6.—Beater for bark cloth

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Having beaten the entire surface with the bark in this position, it is then reversed and placed lengthwise of the log and again beaten, the maul being held at about the same angle. This beating crushes into pulp the succulent portion of the bark, but, if properly done, it does not break the long, interlacing fibers themselves. As a result of this first beating the bark is usually about one-half wider than when taken from the tree, though it is very little if any longer. It is next placed in a canoe half filled with water and allowed to soak for several hours, usually over night. It is then thoroughly wrung, thus removing a large part of the juice and the pulpy portion of the bark, after which it is returned to the log and beaten again in order to remove the remaining pulp. Again it is thoroughly washed and wrung, and is finally spread out to dry. Just before being dried it is folded in the proper manner and creased along the lines of the folds in such a way that when dry it will readily fold along these lines and make a package with a surface about ten by eighteen or twenty inches. Pl. CVI, 3, shows one of these bark cloths partly unfolded. This is a large specimen and is folded three times lengthwise and three times crosswise. The four crosswise sections formed by the three folds are here visible. The full width of the cloth is thus seen, while only one-fourth of the length is shown. Bark cloth is usually from six to eight feet in length and varies in width from about four feet to perhaps eighteen inches, according to whether it is to be used by one or more persons at a time. The surface of the specimen illustrated plainly shows the

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287 imprint of the maul (fig. 6) with which it was beaten as numerous sets of short parallel lines, all at an angle of about forty-five degrees with the perpendicular. Bark cloth is never decorated in any way and is strictly utilitarian. It serves almost exclusively as a sleeping [352 513] mat, and constitutes, together with a mosquito canopy and a thin cotton sheet used as a cover, all that is considered necessary for a bed. It is used occasionally for wrapping a dismantled loom or for some other special purpose.

The beating of the cloth must be done very carefully in order not to cut or tear apart the fibers, thus making holes in the cloth which render it practically worthless. The fibers naturally criss-cross and interlace in such a manner that when the beating is carefully done the result is a cloth which, while very thin, is at the same time very firm. If for any reason, however, a hole does appear in the cloth during the process of beating, it may be mended by simply placing over it a piece of bark of sufficient size to somewhat more than cover it and beating this in. The beating mixes the fibers of the patch with those of the main fabric in such manner as to make the patch almost as firm as the cloth itself.

415 At the present time some of the most characteristic utensils of the Cayapa are made from calabashes. They claim that in their former life in the mountains these 177 utensils were of pottery and that the calabash came into use among them only after their arrival on the Rio Cayapas. It is said also that there was originally a calabash tree native to this region, but that the two

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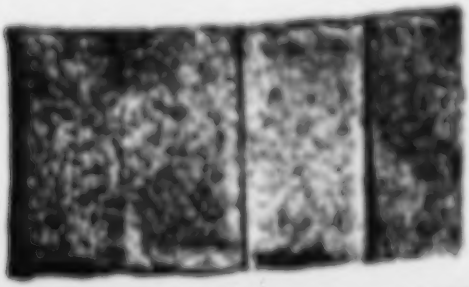

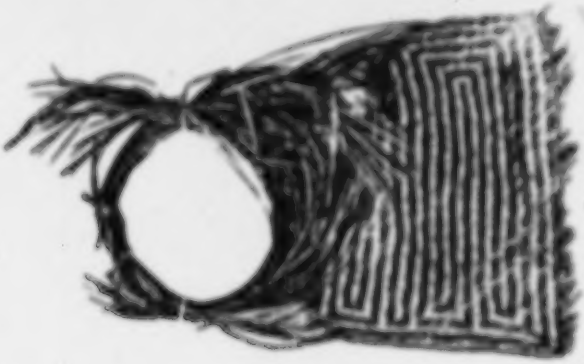

MATS AND BARK CLOTH

BARRETT—CAYAPA INDIANS

[p. 246(B)]

3: Barrett E-5 (1908-1909)1925
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ends of all the elements are cut off in the same manner as was done in making the end with which the mat was begun. 285

Mats of this kind are most frequently used by the Cayapa in the hammocks which serve as cradles. A small mat is placed crosswise in the hammock and holds its edges apart; the baby is then laid upon this mat and swung in the hammock as a cradle. Large mats are occasionally used as beds, but for this purpose bark cloth is preferred. An important use for mats also is as a drying surface upon which to spread cacao. In canoeing, a large mat serves as a canopy or sun covering for small children or for an invalid. If its ends are placed just inside the gunvales of the canoe, bow upward, a mat forms a convenient and very serviceable canopy by virtue of its natural stiffness. An instance of such a use is shown in pl. LXXX. 285 352 [864] [287] [257] 285 501

SPINNING

As was mentioned in speaking of agricultural products, the Cayapa raise considerable quantities of cotton, that is to say, all the cotton needed for weaving the cloth used for their mantas and skirts and for the belts used to hold the mantas in place. No one family raises any considerable number of plants, since a single plant produces almost continuously the year round and aggregates in the course of a year a considerable quantity of bolls. These plants are grown in any convenient place near the house or on the edge of a field of cane or of a grove of chocolate trees. 248